



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

about our gold reserve, all difficulty about maintaining our standing as a gold nation, would be ended. If during the past five years we had been sending abroad only fifteen per cent. of our corn crop, there would probably have been no exports of gold, for the gold that paid for our corn would have exceeded that we sent abroad; and the panic and loss and business depression and shrinkage of values and dislocation of industries, so far as they were precipitated and intensified by the exports of gold and the consequent fears for our gold reserve and doubt of our ability to keep away from a silver basis, would have been avoided. If our export of corn were increased to twenty-five per cent. of the present crop, room would be made for the production each year of from \$200,000,000 to \$250,000,000 more of corn or other farm products, and this would successfully invite workers from the city, thus relieving the congestion there, while those that came to the farms would find healthful, profitable and independent employment while increasing our agricultural production by at least \$200,000,000 per year. If to this were added the domestic production of the sugar we consume, which would each year add \$100,000,000 more to the trade and gold balance in our favor, our agricultural industries would experience such a prosperity, and on a sure, solid gold basis, as they have never known before, even in the days of unsound inflation immediately following the war; and since the solid, enduring prosperity of all other industries must rest on a prosperous husbandry, our people of all classes and in all occupations would enjoy great and real prosperity; and at the same time our national credit and honor and financial resources would, by this happy condition and the legislation it would give the people disposition to have enacted, be put far beyond the doubt that has wrought such havoc, and which will threaten disaster as long as it exists.

JOHN M. STAHL.

---

### THE SWEATING SYSTEM.

The great cities of our country are the centers for the manufacture of clothing under many varied conditions. The retail prices vary from figures at which it may seem impossible that anything has been paid for their manufacture, on the one side, to the extravagant prices paid by the wealthy on the other. As a necessary consequence the desire for cheap clothing of every kind has caused the competition to be so severe that hundreds, aye thousands, are working in the varied departments of the manufacture of clothing, for both men and women, at worse than starvation wages. With the high-priced goods we do not purpose to deal, for, as a rule, both the wholesale manufacturer, and the retail dealer, in these goods pay fair wages; but when we come to the wholesale manufacturers who supply what is called the general trade, varieties of practice and conflicting interests prevail. These cover the following points—the employment of middlemen or sweaters, insufficient wages, unsanitary conditions of manufacture. According to the practice in a large number of the wholesale houses, the cloth or other material for these facts apply to every kind of garment made, is cut out in the shape of the garments required, with all necessary linings, etc. These are then given out to middle men or sweaters, the amount per garment or dozens of garments paid to the middleman being often a very fair wage. The middleman, or sweater, having accepted his contract, then either makes up the garments in his own sweat shop or gives them out to families living in tenement houses. The middleman or

sweater who has clean, airy workshops, complying with the conditions of the factory act, and giving union wages, is an honest and legitimate tradesman. But, unfortunately, the larger number of the sweaters do not belong to this class, and their only desire is to have the garments made at the lowest possible price, so as to obtain for themselves the largest margin from their contract with the wholesale house. In a recent visitation of twelve sweat shops in one house in New York—a house consisting of six stories with two shops on each floor—the halls were found to be in a filthy condition, the stairs being filthy beyond description. The shops themselves were badly lighted, badly ventilated and filled with particles of dust flying about. In one of these shops some women were making buttonholes and others stitching in linings, and, on being questioned, admitted that they could not earn more than fifty to seventy-five cents or one dollar in a working day of fifteen hours. That shop was not paying Union wages. In this whole house there was no water supply or toilet conveniences, except in the basement; and all were in a horrible condition.

Some of the sweat-shops in this house were union shops, as far as wages were concerned; and here comes a question for the various clothing workers' unions to consider—whether they should not rigidly require good sanitary conditions in all places where union work people are employed. But the condition of these shops is not nearly as bad as that of those where work is done in a tenement house by a man and his family. The law prohibits the manufacture of clothing in any tenement house, except by the lessee of it and the immediate members of his family. This is construed often to mean an apartment of two rooms, with a husband, wife and family, varying from two to six children, with two or more boarders (men or women, as the case may be), who live, eat, sleep and work for fifteen or more hours a day in the horrible atmosphere which must necessarily result—the garments that are for manufacture being often used to sleep upon or to cover the miserable denizens of these rooms at night. Constantly cases of sickness, infectious and otherwise, prevail in these rooms, and the men and women employed receive wages that hardly enable them to obtain more food than bread and tea. Surely, with such conditions it is no wonder that disease and vermin should mysteriously enter into the homes of well-to-do families.

A public sentiment must be created of such a character as will make the wholesale and retail trade understand that such conditions will not pay. After a careful study of the problem, there seem to be only three solutions: The absolute abolition of the sweater or middleman; the requiring that all clothing shall be made in workshops under the same conditions as pertain to the manufacture of cloth, etc.; that union wages must be insisted upon.

There is not lacking practical experience to show that it is possible to bring about such results. A large wholesale ladies' clothing house in New York, the heads of which some two or three years ago were in active opposition to union organizations in the clothing trade, carried on the greater part of their business through middlemen and sweaters, have changed their methods, with much profit to themselves and gain to the purchaser.

The firm has three manufactories—two in New York and one in Connecticut. No goods are given out to tenement houses. The wages paid are the highest given, under Union regulations, in the trade. The rooms in their factories are very large, lofty, splendidly lighted, and contain all labor saving appliances in the working of sewing machines. But the three

lower stories of the main building in New York is the one which will most interest the buyer. The firm came to the conclusion that by abolishing the middle-man and their relations with the retail trade and becoming retailers themselves, they would prevent that scattering of profit which entails a loss to the manufacturer, and an increase of cost to the purchaser. The total results of this new experiment may be summarized: better conditions and more pay for the workpeople; additional profit to the manufacturer and retailer (combined in one); and much lower prices to the purchaser. The assistants in the retail department all receive higher wages than those in similar establishments in the city.

We do not claim that all wholesalers should become retailers, or all retailers become wholesalers, but we are satisfied that the wholesale merchant, the retail dealer and the consumer will be largely benefited when the middleman or sweater is abolished. To carry out this object, the various clothing and garment workers are combining, so that in 1900 the middleman and sweater will be a thing of the past. To enable them to do this they will require the help of the public, who should, for self-interest and on sanitary grounds, endeavor to support them.

FRANCIS J. CLAY MORAN.

---

#### STRATEGICAL VALUE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

OUR foreign policy during the last few years illustrates the tenacity with which nations cling to traditional policies that have long outlived their usefulness, as well as the difficulty and slowness with which they rise to new conceptions of their interests.

The Monroe Doctrine has had for itself everything that could make a prejudice deep and strong—prescription, high authority and general consent. In carrying out its provisions we brought ourselves to the verge of war with our best customer—and for many reasons our most naturally in the future—about an infinitesimal portion of the Continent of South America. At the same time, we have passively watched the ports of Asia being closed one by one to our trade by nations which are still chasing the Eighteenth Century *ignis fatuus* of establishing colonies for an exclusive and sole market.

Every port of South America is practically as near to Europe as it is to the United States, and in trading there we shall always be subjected to the fiercest competition with all our European rivals in trade. On the other hand, the coast of China, facing as it does our own Pacific Coast, is practically at our back door. If we guard it properly, nature will assure us almost a monopoly of trade with the greater part of the Continent of Asia. To compete with us European rivals are obliged to double either Cape Horn or the Cape of Good Hope, with all the delay and dangers of crossing the line twice, or else have recourse to the long and expensive route by the Suez Canal.

The configuration of China is such that its trade with other countries must be through its seaports. The general direction of mountain ranges in Asia, unlike those of Europe and America, is east and west; and, roughly speaking, the great Empire of China is enclosed by the Himalayas and the Thian Shan range. The several attempts that England has made to establish trade routes between the interior of China and India across the Himalayas have all failed and those few who like myself have succeeded in reaching China from Europe can testify to the impossibility of the tide of trade ever setting in the direction of Europe across the icy and impass-